

**Confederated Tribes *of the*
Umatilla Indian Reservation**

Department of Children & Family Services



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Pendleton, OR 97801

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Pendleton, Oregon 97801

February 25, 2021

Ellen Wheatley, Acting Director
Office of Child Care
330 C ST SW, 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Director Wheatley:

This letter describes how the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) plans to use the Child Care and Development Funds (CCDF) awarded under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA). We understand that this description will be used for the purpose of informing the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families and Congress how our Lead Agency anticipates using the funds to support the child care needs in our jurisdiction.

We plan to use CRRSA funds for activities in the following categories:

1. Direct Services/Subsidies

Yes. CTUIR/Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) plans to use the CRRSA funds to continue to provide direct child care services to all of its health care sector employees, all emergency responders, food and farm service workers, and/or workers deemed essential or frontline during the response to coronavirus. DCFS is working with their Region X Program Manager and his staff to move forward in scheduling a feasibility study to determine where the largest needs are for our essential and frontline workers to provide for them the best possible child care solutions for our community during the coronavirus pandemic. DCFS will continue to pay providers per enrollment and zero copays for parents.

2. Implementation of Virus Mitigation Policies and Practices

Yes. DCFS has been supplying PPE's to assist in our child care provider's needs. DCFS will continue to find the best solutions for sanitation needs and provide equipment and resources to all providers. DCFS has and will continue to provide diapers, wipes and formula to providers in order to keep children safe within the confines of each providers building. This helps stop the spread by not bringing in products from homes. DCFS is purchasing sanitation devices for each provider such as sprayers, portable hand washing stations, sanitation mats, gloves, and cleaning supplies. CTUIR will continue to follow Tribal, State, Federal and CDC guidelines to ensure the safety for all providers, children and their families in order to assist in stopping the spread.

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3. Grants or Assistance (Other than Subsidies) to Stabilize Child Care Providers Y

Yes. DCFS is assisting in increased costs for staff whenever it is needed for providers to keep their doors open. DCFS has changed from paying providers by attendance to enrollment in order to keep cash flow going to providers. DCFS has and will continue to pay providers when a provider has to quarantine while facing coronavirus positive testing of either staff or children and families.

4. Assistance to Providers Not Participating in the Subsidy System Prior to the Pandemic

CTUIR has requested additional information from the Office of Child Care. Information is forthcoming.

5. Other

Yes. DCFS would like to purchase supplies to take our tribal children on cultural outings to further our goals of connecting tribal children with their cultural heritage. During the COVID-19 pandemic providers are unable to facilitate these outings due to safety requirements. In order to provide children a connection to their culture during this pandemic, when it is more important than ever to support the growth of our children, DCFS would like to supply safety equipment for each child. This equipment would not be shared, it would be for the use of each individual child alone. This equipment will allow DCFS to assist providers in taking the appropriate amount of children, as determined by our safety protocols, on each outing that would follow safe distancing requirements while providing each child with experiences to enhance their cultural knowledge.

DCFS is working with our regional office to develop a feasibility study to ensure that the needs of the community are met. DCFS is looking into the need for child care with extended hours to meet the needs of our health care, food service and essential workers that do not fit into the 7:30 to 4:00 work schedule. DCFS would also like to see services provided to Tribal children for after school programs, summer programs and cultural field trips.

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) will amend our CCDF plan as a result of activities implemented under CRRSA funding not currently described in the plan, within 60 days of implementation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Julie Taylor
Director of the Department of Children and Family Services
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

cc: Paul Noski, Regional Program Manager, Office of Child Care, Region 10
Catherine Jackson, Program Specialist, Office of Child Care, Region 10
Joshua Lee, Program Specialist, Office of Child Care, Region 10